THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

Vol. IV.—No. 19 SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1917 Price One Penny

THE CENTRE OF IRELAND: *By May O'Callaghan.*

"What brought you to Dublin? Sure there's no one here now!" a member of the Convention asked me waggishly. "It's in Kilkenny you ought to be, where the Sinn Fein election campaign is in progress. That's the centre of Ireland now; before that it was Clare. Where the next election will be I can't say; but there you will find the chief interest of the country for the time being."

I had broken my journey in Dublin to be there when the great Convention, to be held in Trinity College, would sit, and in this tone one of the delegates talked of it. He was only bantering, it was true, and underestimating in a typical Irish way what might chance to be in progress at the time. His sympathies were largely with the Sinn Feiners, who had refused to be officially represented; possibly that angered him. Yet, another delegates assured me that if the Sinn Fein policy required any explanation at the Convention he was prepared to take up the cudgels for them, and put their position.

Still traversing non-political Dublin, I looked up a lady very closely in touch with all progressive men and women. I wanted to know her feelings about the Convention. She was optimistic. "Everybody says no good can come of it," she exclaimed; "but I have great hopes of it. Protestant and Catholic, Unionist and non-Unionist, party and non-party men will have an opportunity for the first time to meet in a common room and discuss Ireland. You know there are Orangemen who may still imagine that Catholics are people with horns. People who live in some purely Protestant districts have never even met a Catholic. You remember the story of the woman who wanted to keep her children away from a filthy pool in the yard, and told them: 'Come away, children, shure the pond is full of wee Popes'! If only that atmosphere of misunderstanding can be done away with once and for all the Convention will have done some good."

On Wednesday, 25th July, at eleven o'clock, the first sitting took place at Trinity College. Mr. Duke, the Chief Secretary, acted as chairman. Outside the gates, on College Green, that place of historic memories, a few score people stood or loafed about to see the delegates pass in. The Press, being compelled to sit on the doorstep and gather what information possible, lined up inside the entrance gates of Trinity, together with the photographers. Numerous big, burly Dublin policemen were posted at various corners, fearing, I suppose, some show of hostility from the Sinn Feiners, whose most hostile action was totally to ignore the event. Some sandwich-board men paraded up and down in view of the College, their placards bearing the inscription:—

"Members of the Convention,
We hope the Government will keep faith with you better than it did with Irish Manufacturers over the Receiving Depôt."

A body called the Industrial Development Society was responsible for this parade.

One violently anti-British woman commented on the formation of the Convention and its purposes thus: "It is a body of the best and most honestly intentioned men every brought together under one roof; but it has been appointed and sanctioned by the most corrupt Government ever known in these islands." This seems strong condemnation certainly when one remembers the various British Governments and their representatives in Ireland!

* * * *

The appointment of Sir Horace Plunkett as chairman has been welcomed by all fair-minded people. The curse of Ireland has been party politics. The shibboleths of one side have been used to worry an already distracted and down-trodden people, all united on one point only: That England can bring no good to Ireland. This fact has been shamelessly ill-used by Irish capitalists, who would cover their own shortcomings under the ruinous rule of Great Britain. Now that danger would seem to be removed as far as the present Convention is concerned. Sir Horace Plunkett is a non-party man; but has the confidence of his early Unionist associates. He is the leading figure in the Irish co-operative movement, which has its seat at Plunkett House, Merrion Square, where Mr. George Russell (A.E.) edits his unique "Homestead." When, about twenty years ago, Sir Horace Plunkett first laid the foundations of the co-operative movement in Ireland, he was not welcomed as he ought to have been. Later, when the Department of Irish Agriculture was started under British control, with Sir Horace as president, the Nationalist party opposed him, and finally succeeded in ousting him from office, ostensibly because he was not a member of the House of Commons. All that may be forgotten now let us hope. The future of the country lies in co-operation, and there are other co-operators as delegates to the Convention. They are in a minority, of course; but they may prove a powerful factor.

What the future holds in store for Ireland or any other country is increasingly difficult to judge. The conversation of some soldiers in the train the other day threw an interesting light on the situation. One of them had been through the terrible campaign in Gallipoli. He was condemning the Government in a loud voice, when a young recruit tried to calm him and begged of him to be careful. "Be careful," the Gallipoli man exclaimed. "My God! to think I, an Irishman, have faced death in that hell out there for months, whilst Englishmen refuse to fight for their country! To think of all I've been through, and then to be told to be careful. Careful! Why, I shall call out at the top of my voice everywhere what I know and think! When I think of what I have suffered for England I could blow my brains out!"

The Convention will meet again on August 8th, when I understand the serious discussions will begin. I wonder will Dublin be the centre then!

Of Special Interest This Week!

THE "DREADNOUGHT" RAIDED!

—

RIOT AT BROTHERHOOD CHURCH

WHIP BEHIND!

WOMEN BOYCOTT BUTCHERS

The Jewish Women's Economic Society in various districts is organising a boycott of the butchers in order to bring down the price of meat. When they have successfully dealt with the meat prices they will turn to other commodities. In the Marylebone district the method of working was as follows:—

As Jewish women, their problem lies with the Jewish butchers. Firstly a meeting of women was called to formulate demands and a plan of action. This meeting elected a committee of 20. It was decided to demand that the soup meat should be sold at 1s. 7d. per lb. and steak and chops at 1s. 8d. The butchers were then selling at 1s. 10d. and 2s. These demands were sent to the Jewish butchers with an announcement that if the demands were not conceded they would be boycotted, the women informing the butchers that they must settle their difficulties with their wholesalers, if need be by adopting a similar boycott.

On the butchers refusing to lower their prices, the boycott began. Some of the women taking up their stand as pickets outside the Jewish butchers' shops.

Other women arranged for the convenient supply of chickens to housewives desiring to substitute them for butcher's meat. In one district on the first day of the boycott they bought from a poulterer 28 chickens at 4s. 6d., 28 at 4s. 4d., and 28 at 4s. They arranged to pay for them next day. They sold these chickens at cost price by the pound, cutting them up at 1s. 3d. per lb. and 10d. for the giblets. A member of the Committee kept a greengrocer's shop, and some of the fowls were sold from it; another member of the Committee lent a room in her house. A few days later the women's Committee bought £10 worth of fowls in the same district.

By this time the butchers came to the committee offering to reduce their meat by a penny, but the Committee was not satisfied, and the boycott continues, though several of the women have been fined. British women may usefully follow the plucky example set by the Jewish women.

THE FOOD DEMONSTRATION.

The Hyde Park Food Demonstration organised by the London Food Vigilance Committee on Sunday last was the largest seen in London since the outbreak of War. The processions were large and gay with many banners, and great crowds assembled around the eight platforms. The most popular feature of the demonstration was the cart filled with little children carrying bannerettes inscribed: "We want our daddies," which formed part of the Workers' Suffrage Federation contingent from East London.

* * * *

A mother whose only son is in the Army writes: "The Jingoes will soon be adding to the Church Litany: 'Please God bless the Kaiser for helping the slow phlegmatic English to discover the women and the children of the land and to inaugurate National Baby Week.'"

THE END.

"It is time for me to go, mother. I am going. When in the paling darkness of the lonely dawn, you stretch out your arms for your baby in the bed, I shall say, 'Baby is not there!' Mother, I am going.

"I shall become a delicate draught of air and caress you; and I shall be ripples in the water when you bathe, and kiss you and kiss you again.

"In the gusty night when the rain patters on the leaves you will hear my whisper on your bed, and my laughter will flash with the lightning through the open window into your room.

"If you lay awake thinking of your baby till late into the night, I shall sing to you from the stars, 'Sleep, mother, sleep.'

"On the straying moonbeams I shall steal over your bed and lie upon your bosom while you sleep.

"I shall become a dream, and through the little opening of your eyelids I shall slip into the depths of your sleep: and when you wake up and look round startled, like a twinkling firefly I shall flit out into the darkness.

"When, on the great festival of puja, *the neighbours' children come and play about the house, I shall melt into the music of the flute and throb in your heart all day.*

"Dear auntie will come with puja *presents, and will ask, 'Where is our baby, sister?'"*

RABINDRANATH TAGORE.

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT

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RAIDED!

"The 'Workers' Dreadnought,' which preaches unqualified sedition. An article in the issue of July 28, signed by Miss Pankhurst, contains the following passage: 'The paralysis of the military force in this and every other country is, however, precisely one of the objects which we, as opponents of militarism, desire to achieve. We believe that the conscientious objector who refuses to become a soldier, the soldiers who establish a truce in the trenches,, and the people which forces its Government to make peace, whether it be a separate peace or a general peace, are all fighting the same fight, and their fight is our fight. . .'"

On Tuesday the "Daily Express" generously gave the WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT a free advertisement, from which we take the above extract. On Wednesday morning 400 Old Ford Road was "raided" by five big detectives. They showed us a warrant to search our premises; it was from the "competent military authority," but they were the familiar men from Scotland Yard. Of course, they wanted to seize our stock of THE DREADNOUGHT to which the "Daily Express' had taken exception; but there has been such an overwhelming demand for the paper this week that the usual reserve which we keep for binding had already been raided by saleswomen eager to supply the claims of newsagents' messengers coming for repeat orders. Therefore we had only two copies of the paper in stock for the detectives to take away. It transpired that Scotland Yard had sent its men to seize THE DREADNOUGHT, in order to destroy both the article mentioned above and also the statement by Second Lieutenant Sassoon, which appeared on our front page last week. This soldier, who won the Military Cross and the D.S.O. for valour in battle, has risen to an infinitely greater moral courage in his deliberate and calmly expressed refusal of further military service. He will have a hard and distasteful fight before him, people of all kinds will endeavour to dissuade him from his difficult course.

But how right he is! We urge our readers to consider carefully our Parliamentary reports this week, especially those on the Vote of Credit and the Consolidated Fund Bill. Mr. Dillon's statement, which was heard without challenge in the House— heard, indeed, with approval —that if Serbia makes peace with Austria we shall have lost the War, is surely enough to prove that one of the main causes of this War is the great struggle of rival capitalist groups for the domination of the Near East. Mr. Buxton's recantation of the desire to dismember Austria; Mr. Bryce's insistence on that demand; Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck's questions—are not these enough to reveal the truth?

And then Sir Edward Carson's declaration that the Germans must be made to withdraw beyond the Rhine before the Allies can entertain peace negotiations! When, in the House of Commons on July 26th, Mr. King asked whether Sir Edward Carson spoke for the Government, and whether he was aware that both banks of the Rhine for a considerable distance belong to Germany, Mr. Bonar Law evaded the issue: "I am not ignorant of that fact," he said; "nor is my right hon. friend." It was assumed that Sir Edward Carson had spoken in impetuous ignorance. But now come further revelations. The German Chancellor declares that shortly before the Russian Revolution, France entered into a treaty with the Czar's Government for "vast plans of conquest," including annexations on the left bank of the Rhine. This statement fits in with Sir Edward Carson's words. The Chancellor added that in the French secret session on June 1st and 2nd, M. Ribot was obliged to produce the secret treaty in response to a demand by the French Socialist Renaudel, and that the journey of the one-time Socialist, M. Thomas, to Russia had been to secure that the new Russian Socialist Minister, M. Terestchenko, would honour this pledge of the old autocracy.

M. Ribot has protested that the story is untrue, but he has at the same time admitted it, for he says:—

> "M. Doumergue, after his conversations with the Czar, asked and obtained from M. Briand authorisation to support our claim to Alsace-Lorraine, torn by violence from us, and to leave us free to seek guarantees against further aggression, not by annexing to France territories on the left bank of the Rhine but by making if need be of these territories an autonomous State, protecting us as well as Belgium against invasion from beyond the Rhine."

An autonomous State means a French State to which Home Rule is given. So this is France's share of the plunder if the Allies win the War! This new War aim, like most of the others, is very shameful: it completes the circle of evil-intent in which all the belligerent Governments have enmeshed themselves. The lust of conquest seems to grow stronger as the possibility of victory for either side becomes more remote.

Are we to go on and on indefinitely, draining the life-blood of the people, till mutual exhaustion brings a peace born of despair?

Let us be up and doing to prevent that! The people can end the War if they will only realise their power.

Do not be depressed by the breaking up of the Conferences last Saturday. If we require of each organisation that it shall send not merely a delegate, but a band of members to stand by, such disturbances will become impossible. It is not the majority who indulge in jingo rioting, but small organised minorities whose unthinking minds have been poisoned by untruths. The capitalists of the Jingo school go for their tools to the unhappiest victims of capitalism, which creates so many victims.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

SPIES IN THE HOUSE.

On July 25th, immediately after questions had been answered in the Commons, Mr. King called the attention of the Speaker to the presence of secret police within the precincts of the House. He said that they had impeded the cloak-room lobby and made his access to the House "slower and less pleasant than usual." He had recognised one or two notorious characters amongst them, but these had beat a hasty retreat on seeing him. He felt safe, and he thought every other Member felt safe, but if Members of Parliament were in danger they should be protected by uniformed police. The lobbies were almost deserted, but if they were overcrowded by the public uniformed police should keep order. The only conceivable reason for the presence of secret service men appeared to him to be that of limiting the freedom of Members of Parliament by spying on them, by opening their letters in the post office, or in some other way. He appealed to the Speaker as the guardian of the liberties of the House to order the police agents to leave the precincts of the House immediately, and that secret police be not admitted unless the House itself should authorise their presence.

The Speaker regretted that Mr. King had raised the matter at all, as he (Mr. Speaker) had himself applied to the Home Office for secret police to defend Members of Parliament because a few days before he had "received information from a very authoritative source that there was likely to be some illegal and improper demonstration in the gallery, accompanied possibly by physical violence." As he was "more or less the guardian of the lives and liberties of hon. Members" during their presence in the Chamber, he felt it his duty to do everything he could to protect them. He would make further inquiry as to whether there was any necessity for the secret police to remain, and, if not, he would ask the Home Office to withdraw them.

The House and the world has been left in ignorance of the awful thing which menaced Members of Parliament on July 25th, for the Speaker made no further disclosure. The "Daily Express" declared that a Sinn Fein plot was the cause of the trouble, but presented no evidence in support of its allegation, and so far no plot has emerged. Two Members of Parliament were aggrieved by the affair, Mr. King and Mr. Ginnel. Mr. King was scolded on all hands for having made public the presence of the secret police: he therefore published a statement explaining:—

> That he spoke to Mr. Speaker before the House met on the subject. Mr. Speaker never suggested to Mr. King any other course. Later, Mr. Speaker called on Mr. King to rise to raise the point. Mr. King also sent a note to the Home Secretary, which he received in the House at three p.m. Mr. King left the Chamber and waited behind the Chair, expecting the Home Secretary to come out. He missed his questions to Mr. Macpherson in so doing. Had the Home Secretary desired that the matter should not be publicly mentioned, he could have said so to Mr. King. Mr. King gave every possible opportunity to the authorities to explain their conduct. They did not take it.

The "Daily Express" declared that the Speaker had sent for the secret police because of a Sinn Fein plot. The "Daily News" announced that there had been reason to think that the Sinn Feiners would make a disturbance in the House on the occasion of Mr. Ginnell's taking his final leave of the House of Commons, which, according to the "News," was to have been on the 25th. Mr. Ginnell was not present on the 25th, but he appeared next day to protest against these insinuations. Whether Mr. Ginnell was poking fun at the Speaker, who apparently had been the victim of a hoax, or whether there is more in the matter than appears on the surface we do not know; but in the absence of direct evidence we incline to the view that Mr. Ginnell was endeavouring to show that the fantastic suspicions entertained against himself and his co-workers, might as well be directed against the Government. He said that the Speaker's action, as it had been developed in the London Press, would have involved him in an action for criminal libel had it been possible to take action against him. He alleged that the Speaker, he hoped unconsciously, had made himself the accomplice of members of the Government who had plotted to have a crime committed in the House, and to attribute it to himself and his friends in Ireland. He, Ginnell, had been warned of this in Dublin on the previous Saturday. The warning had come "from the Government through a friendly source," and he had been told that his life was in danger. He believed that if the secret police who were present the day before, had been searched "there would have been found on their persons, *if on any human being,* bombs, or other objectionable articles," the very articles of which the Speaker had said he had "authoritative information." He challenged the Speaker to say where that information came from. To prove that his own story was not a fabrication, Mr. Ginnell then proceeded to read abusive and threatening letters which had been sent to himself. The Speaker interrupted that he and everyone receives such letters. Mr. Ginnell replied by a request to him to give the "authoritative information" on which he had acted the day before. The Speaker then ordered Mr. Ginnell to resume his seat, and after some further wrangling he named him for disregarding his authority. Mr. Bonar Law moved Mr. Ginnell's suspension, and eventually he was ejected. Members were somewhat perturbed by the incident. It jarred their consciences somewhat to see a frail old man forcibly put out. Some consoled themselves by declaring that he must be mad.

* * * *

Alberta, Canada, has already one woman member of its legislature. Miss MacAdams, of the Canadian Military Nursing Service, is attempting to become a second. The newspapers only describe her appearance, and omit all reference to her views, so that we do not know whether to advise our readers to vote for her or not.

* * * *

The Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour Organisations (British section) has unanimously declared its support of: Peace without forcible annexations or penal indemnities, and based on the right of nations to decide their own affairs; re-affirmed the declarations of the Berne Women's International Socialist Conference, and pledged itself to use every possible effort to bring this war to an end. * * * *

Visitors to the Margaret Morris Theatre in Chelsea, London, on three evenings recently were delighted by the charming dance interpretations of Madame Marcelle Valerie, a pupil of Dalcroze. In her interpretations of Schumann, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Strauss and Mendelssohn she entered into the spirit of the music and abandoned herself to its influence. She moves with almost inconceivable lightness of foot, her whole form answering to the rhythm and leaves no emotion unexpressed.—M. O'C.

THE MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN DELEGATES

Mr. J. Baum, writing from the Russian Government Committee, Zemstvo Department, Bank Buildings, Kingsway, W.C., sends us the following statement :—

"The Russian Delegation of the All-Russia Conference of Workers' and Soldiers' delegates, consisting of Messrs. G. Erlich, I. Goldenberg, E. Rousanov, and A. Smirnov have succeeded, during their three days' short stay in London in achieving essential results in organising an international Socialist and Labour Conference with a view of carrying on a struggle for peace.

The Russian Revolution has saved the democracy of the world from Tsardom, which was correctly nicknamed the European Executioner, and which was a constant menace to peace and to every democratic movement. The Russian Revolution, on the other hand, has created in Russia conditions under which it has become possible to carry into effect the principles of democracy, which is also of great importance for international democracy. In order to strengthen the achievements of the Russian Revolution and in order that the Russian democracy may obtain the possibility of organising in Russia a stable democratic order, the monstrous war ruining humanity must give place to peace.

Having put forward from the first days of the Revolution the watchword of a struggle for peace, the overwhelming majority of the revolutionary democracy in Russia has never, even for a solitary moment, inclined to the idea of a *separate peace* with the Central Powers, and has always considered peace on an international scale, a peace concluded under the pressure brought by peoples freed from the domination of Imperialistic hypnotism, peoples who are taking their destinies into their own hands.

The Petrograd Council for the Workers' and Soldiers' Delegates has taken upon itself the initiative of convening the International Socialist Conference. The All-Russia Conference of the Councils at which close on twenty millions of democratic electors were represented had sanctioned the initiative of the Petrograd Council. The delegation sent abroad by this Conference for the purpose of organising the Congress had entered at Stockholm into communications with the Dutch-Scandinavian Committee, and with the International Socialist Commission of Berne.

The delegation had secured the co-operation of the Dutch-Scandinavian Committee and the Conference is being convened at the present moment with active participation of the said Committee. As far as the organisations and parties affiliated to the Zimmerwald Committee are concerned the question of the participation in a general Congress will be decided at the Conference of these parties which is going to be held at Stockholm five days before the general Congress. However, the largest of these parties has already agreed to take part in the general Congress.

The organisers of the International Congress are convening the latter with the deep conviction that in order to bring the world war to an end the International has to bring about a renunciation on the part of all Socialist parties, and all labour organisations of co-operation with those of their Governments who either refuse to declare their war aims, or with those who are openly or secretly putting forward Imperialistic aims or decline to renounce same.

At the same time, the organisers of the Congress express the conviction that all parties and organisations invited to the Congress share the views expressed above, and are prepared to give an undertaking to carry into effect without any hesitation and without any deviation the decisions arrived at in Conference in accordance with the principles laid down above.

Their stay in London and the friendly communion with English Socialists and Labour organisations has added to their conviction that the Conference will indeed take place. As far as the Labour Party is concerned it is at the present moment bound by the well-known decision of the Manchester Conference. In view of this the Executive Committee of the Party is calling a National Conference for August 10th, at which the question of the Labour Party taking part in the general congress will be discussed. The delegation hopes that the National Conference will decide this question in the affirmative, and thus the powerful English proletariat will be fully represented at the general Congress. The Independent Labour Party and the British Socialist Party have expressed their agreement in principle to participate in the Conference.

During the negotiations with the English Labour organisations the Delegation had, among other things, to express their opinion on the question of their taking part in the Conference of the Socialist parties of the Allied countries. The Delegation has given in detail the view previously expressed by the Executive Committee of the Petrograd Council in their resolution on this subject, that a special Conference of Socialist parties and Labour organisations in the Allied countries is superfluous, because such a Conference would only mean the sanction of the breach artificially created by the war between such parties and organisations, and also because only an International Conference, uniting in one common effort all the Socialist parties and Labour organisations may lead to peace. In view of this the delegation has pronounced itself against the convening of such a partial Conference of the Allied Socialists, but at the same time the Delegation declares that if such a Conference should nevertheless be called and take place, they will attend same, but solely for the purpose of getting information and in order to put forward their point of view.

Being much pressed for time, and having, after a stay of three days in London, to leave for Paris and Rome, the Delegation is to its deep regret denied the possibility of coming into closer and direct touch with the great organisations of the English working class. The Delegation hopes to do so, however, on its way back. The Delegation cherishes the firm hope that the idea of a real democratic peace, without annexations and indemnities on the basis of the right of the people to dispose of their own destinies, an idea in the name of which the International Conference is being convened, will meet with the warm sympathy of the glorious English working classes, and that, supported by their powerful organisations, will give the most energetic support to the fight for the realisation and carrying into effect of this idea in life, without faltering before any obstacles which undoubtedly will be placed in their way by the Imperialistic circles in England."—(Signed) G. ERLICH, L. GOLDENBERG, M. ROUSANOV, A. SMIRNOV.

RIOT AT THE BROTHERHOOD CHURCH

On Saturday last the terrorism of the gutter press prevented the holding of the Conference to form a Workers' and Soldiers' Council. Obedient to the command of a daily paper, the proprietors of the Memorial Hall cancelled the letting two days before the day of meeting.

The organisers of the Conference then summoned the delegates to the Brotherhood Church, in Southgate Road, which is always at the disposal of evicted freedom lovers. The "Daily Express" either discovered or guessed that the Brotherhood Church would be the chosen meeting place, and issued instructions to its readers to be there to prevent the holding of the Conference. But the opponents of the Conference did not content themselves with mere notices in the "Daily Express"; they distributed and exhibited in the public houses throughout Hoxton and the New North Road district, where the bombs fell in the last great air raid, copies of the following notice :—

MEN OF HOXTON!
This afternoon at 3 o'clock
in your midst
A Meeting of pro-Germans will be held
assisted by
Delegates from the Committee in Russia which demoralised and ruined the Russian Army.
These people are organised in the hope of doing the same dirty work in the British Army.
The Meeting is
at
BROTHERHOOD CHURCH, CANAL BRIDGE, SOUTHGATE ROAD.
Be at the Whitmore Head,
2.30 p.m.
Scores of old Soldiers and others are going to march to the Canal Bridge to show these
TRAITORS
What they think of them.
REMEMBER THE LAST AIR RAID AND ROLL UP!

At 2.30 a crowd had already assembled; at 2.45 it was well-nigh impossible for delegates to struggle through the hostile mob. Fighting, led on by Australian soldiers, began at 3 o'clock, and soon the leaded glass windows of the school-room adjoining the church were torn out, the doors were burst in, and a crowd of rioters rushed into the church. They fought and writhed in the pulpit, shouted and brandished great stakes of wood. Some of them were bleeding from cuts received in smashing their way into the building. A wounded soldier in hospital blue, and looking very ill, tried in vain to coax them to be quiet and allow the Conference to go on. They let him speak until they learned his object, then silenced him with their yells. A young soldier climbed to the organ gallery and delivered a speech, saying that the meeting must not proceed, but that damage would not be done to God's house, and that after the War the soldiers who have fought in this War would demand a voice in the Government of the country. Presently he called to his companions to turn the delegates out, but no one could leave : the gates were locked. The police entered and opened the gates, telling the delegates to go; but as they left the building the mob outside fell upon them, whilst the police in most cases made no effort to protect them. We saw Mr. Leonard Howard, whose tall figure made him an easy mark, with blood streaming down the back of his head and his face bruised and cut, attacked again and again. He took refuge in a furniture van, but the police dragged him out and flung him back to his assailants. Many people were taken to hospital. Miss Douglas was seen there with her face bandaged, a bleeding ring on her neck showed where an opponent had tried to wrench off her chain. Mr. Fowler Shone was struck about the head and carried to hospital unconscious. Police stood by whilst damage to person and property was committed, and arrested only one person, Mr. Maurice Leahy, a delegate to the Conference. He was charged with using insulting words and behaviour, but the case was dismissed.

Four hundred and forty-one organisations were to be represented at the London Conference which was broken up. The Swansea and Newcastle Conferences, were also broken up, but successful Conferences have been held at Norwich, Bristol and Leicester.

MESSAGE FROM THE RUSSIAN DELEGATES

The Russian delegates—Messrs. Erlich, Goldenburg, Roussanoff, and Smirnoff—have sent a message to the district conferences of the Workers' and Soldiers' Council, saying:—"We regret very much not to have the pleasure of being present at your Conference. Permit us to send you the sincerest greetings. We are convinced that these Councils, formed to a certain degree under the influence of the great Russian Revolution, are the legitimate fruits of the development of the Labour democracy in your country. They represent an important step towards the genuine government of the people, for the people, and by the people."

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought now ready, price 6/6 each To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E. Postage, 7d. extra.

LENIN

We take the following extracts from an article by Charles Rappoport in the French Majority Socialist paper, "Le Journal du Peuple," of June 26th, 1917 :—"You must be grossly ignorant or of the most scandalous bad faith in order to attempt to reduce this tragic history to a vulgar matter of bribery by corruption. Thousands of militant Russian Socialists for the last twenty years have known Lenin to be of an incorruptible character and immaculate in private life. He only has one fault; he is a partisan of the 250 miles an hour. In that mad race, automobile and chauffeur rush fatally into the abyss, crushing the foot-passengers on the way. . . . .

"Lenin's strength is his iron will, the clearness and simplicity of his words of command, his absolute disinterestedness, his incorruptibility, his methodical action, and a consummate power of organisation. He always had with him the majority of the class-conscious proletariat in the large industrial centres.

"This is the perfect man of action : minimum of thought and maximum of activity. He sacrifices everything for the goal to be attained. He simplifies everything."

WHAT RUSSIAN PRISONERS SAY

Russian prisoners escaped from Germany inform us that the present situation in Russia is caused by Kerensky's blunder in ordering the offensive before insisting on obtaining the Allies' Peace terms. Our informants urge that Kerensky should insist on the immediate publication of those terms.

THE JUGO-SLAV CONFERENCE

We do not know how representative is the Conference of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes which has been meeting at Corfu, but we welcome the clauses in its agreement which provide that "deputies to the National Parliament shall be elected by universal suffrage with equal, direct and secret ballot. The Constituent Assembly elected by universal suffrage will create the possibility of organising local autonomies." If that includes women, the Jugo-Slavs are in advance of the present British Cabinet

HOW PROFITS ARE MADE

A correspondent informs us that when the price of gas was increased and her meter was altered so as to let less gas through for a penny the mechanic sent by the company left a screw loose which allowed gas to escape. Therefore, when the collector came to take the money, he found 1s. 5d. less than the meter registered. The company now orders our correspondent to pay the difference, but she protests that she does not know were the gas has escaped, and that in any case she is not to blame for the escape.

THE OBJECTS OF THE WAR

In the Commons debate on the Vote of Credit, July 24th, the strategy of the War was hotly debated by Mr. Lambert and Mr. Dillon. The one belongs to the school which desires military effort to be chiefly concentrated on the West front; the other to the East front school. Mr. Lambert asked what we are doing at Gaza, observing that even if we advance to Jerusalem, that is not a vital part of the Turkish Empire. He further asked what we are going to do at Bagdad. He said that our submarine shipping losses are much greater than the Government returns show, that the Allied Navies are three and a-half times as strong as the Germans in naval power, but our Navy has been held at bay for nearly three years. He asked why the King's Royal Rifles at Nieuport, close to the sea, had died fighting back to back when gunfire from the Navy might have come to their aid, and why the northern coasts of Belgium are not the subject of our attack rather than outlying portions of the Turkish Empire.

DILLON'S REVELATIONS.

Mr. Dillon said that the quarrel between the Eastern and Western schools had for two years divided the controlling forces of this country into two camps. The military experts of the General Staff all belonged to the Western school (perhaps because they *are* experts). Mr. Dillon thought that the Western school had now completely triumphed, and Salonika and the Balkans had been "thrown overboard." He urged that even should Germany agree to restore and indemnify Belgium and to make concessions to France, "so long as Germany controls the Balkans and has the railway to Constantinople open, and access to Asia Minor, she will have won the war." He added: "I understand the Serbians have already been approached by Austria to make a separate Peace. If the Serbians make Peace with Austria, where are we? I say that the War is lost. The purpose for which we went into the War has gone. If the Serbians make Peace with Austria, then our position before the world is ruined." In this striking summing up of British aims in the War and German aims in the War which showed the two to be precisely the same, though mutually conflicting, Mr. Dillon was not contradicted. He went on to say that Roumania, which had hung back from joining the War for undertakings from this country and Russia, was suddenly forced into the War by a Russian ultimatum that if she, Roumania, did not declare war on Germany by a certain date, Russia would cross her frontiers. He further alleged that the Russian Minister, Stuermer, had a secret understanding with the German Emperor that he would drive Roumania into the War and cut off her resources, and after she was conquered would make Peace and divide Roumania between Russia and Germany. He alleged that guns sent from Britain to Roumania were actually held up by the Russians. Since Mr. Dillon believes all these and many more awful and treacherous things which he alleged, we wonder how he can still remain enthusiastic for the War!

MR. BUXTON'S CONFESSION.

Mr. Noel Buxton stated that he had been one of those who had desired to destroy Austria, and had thought that it might be accomplished without extending the War. He confessed this without shame or contrition; but said that he now thought the idea a delusion. He still holds that: "The immense prolongation of the War required to carry it out might possibly be worth while if it arrived at an ideal situation, and would be worth immense sacrifices if the policy were good on its merits. (International gamblers think calmly of human slaughter.) His reasons for abandoning the project of conquest are: (1) New Russia will not raise a finger to break up Austria; (2) There is no proof that the disappearance of Austria, "even if attainable, which it probably is not, would conduce to our safety. . . . The chance that the Danubian world will be anti-German is just as great, or greater, perhaps, if Austria is let alone"; (3) "The most conspicuous friends of the South Slavs," said before the War, that "the worst fate of the South Slavs would be to come under Serbia"; (4) By restoring Serbia and Roumania we break the German corridor to the East, almost, if not quite, as well as by setting up a powerful ten million estate across the German path.

All this is very small-minded and anything but disinterested! Mr. Buxton naively stated that he saw the photographs and immediate proofs of Austrian atrocities in Serbia, and that the extraordinary thing was that the troops who had committed those atrocities were not Magyars or Germans, but in the main South Slavs, who spoke a language that the Serbs understood, and sang the same songs. Thus are the people betrayed to injure each other!

Mr. King (L.) complained that Colonel John Buchan and Dr. Seton Watson, who had been released from the Army to serve as members of the Prime Minister's "Garden Party" of Secretaries, had sent out a Jugo-Slav document to which were attached the names of Mr. Barnes, Sir Edward Carson, and Lord Milner—a strange company! This document stated that the surrender of Serbia to Austria was a near possibility.

BELLICOSE MEMBERS.

Mr. Billing, in the course of a long speech on the Air Board, alleged that Army officers have supplied the Government with untruthful answers to questions put by Members of Parliament. Colonel Archer-Shee described his remarks as "most offensive, insulting and caddish." The two Members afterwards began fighting out their quarrel in Palace Yard, but were separated by the police. Before leaving the Chamber for his encounter with Mr. Billing, Colonel Archer-Shee demanded the combing out of the mines of 500,000 miners, the de-badging of 15,000 munition workers, and the calling up of all men aged from 19 to 23 years, the extension of Conscription to Ireland, and the raising of the conscript age from 40 to 45. Mr. J. H. Thomas (Lab.) observed that there are only 900,000 miners in the United Kingdom, including surface men and men underground! What is this to the Man Power school?

THE PEACE DEBATE

The Peace Resolution of the German Reichstag was as follows:—

"On the threshold of the fourth year of the War, the Reichstag declares, as on 4th August, 1914, the validity of the motto remains: 'No desire for conquest impels us.' For the defence of its freedom and independence, and integrity of its territory, Germany took up arms."

"Declining all thoughts of the forcible acquisition of territory, the Reichstag strives for a Peace by agreement, and a permanent reconciliation of nations. With such a Peace, political, economic and financial oppressions are incompatible. The Reichstag equally rejects all plans which aim at economic exclusion and enmity between peoples after the War. Only such an economic Peace, with freedom of the seas, will, after the conclusion of the War, prepare the ground for a permanent friendly community of life between nations. Led by these considerations and aims, the Reichstag will energetically further the creating of international organisation for the promotion of international law. So long, however, as the hostile Governments reject such a Peace and threaten Germany and its Allies with conquest and violent oppression, the German people is determined unshakenly to stand together and endure for the defence of its own and Allies' right to live and develop. The German people know that in unity and defence it is invincible."

The Pacifist Group in the House of Commons asked the Government for a day to discuss the German Resolution, but the Government refused, leaving the pacifists no other way of raising the question than by an amendment to the Consolidated Fund Bill. On July 26th the refusal of the day showed the Government hostile to the Reichstag resolution, and not disposed to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards the elected representatives of the German people, in spite of Mr. Lloyd George's expressed willingness to make Peace with a German democracy, as opposed to a German autocracy. The Amendment of the Pacifist Group declared that the Reichstag resolution

"expresses the principles for which this country has stood throughout, and calls upon the Government, in conjunction with the Allies, to re-state their Peace terms accordingly; and, further, it declares that the Allies should accept the Russian proposal that the forthcoming Allied Conference on War aims shall comprise representatives of the peoples, and not merely spokesmen of the Governments."

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

As Mr. MacDonald explained in moving the Amendment, its adoption would mean the defeat of the Government. Only 21 Members supported the Amendment: W. C. Anderson (I.L.P.), Sydney Arnold (Lib.), J. A. Baker (Lib.), Rt. Hon. John Burns (Lib.), Sir John Emmott Barlow (Lib.), H. G. Chancellor (Lib.), Hon. R. D. Denman (Lib.), T. E. Harvey (Lib.), Joseph King (Lib.), R. Lambert (Lib.), J. Ramsay MacDonald (I.L.P.), T. Richardson (I.L.P.), D. M. Mason (Lib.), Phillip Morrell (Lib.), R. L. Outhwaite (Lib.), Arthur Ponsonby (Lib.), Philip Snowden (I.L.P.), C. P. Trevelyan (Lib.), J. H. Whitehouse (Lib.), with Mr. Lees Smith (Lib.) and Mr. Jowett (I.L.P.), who acted as tellers.

It will be seen that the number of righteous men found to vote for this Amendment was very small, but only 150 voted and told against it, a large number abstaining from voting altogether. That is a small mercy for which we may be thankful.

THE REICHSTAG RESOLUTION.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's speech in moving the Amendment was very temperate, very carefully (perhaps almost too carefully) phrased, to avoid offending the prejudices of the Jingoes. But, even so, he was many times interrupted by peppery General Croft, who is so much like the irate colonel of the stage that it is difficult to realise he is an inhabitant of the ordinary everyday world of real life. Mr. MacDonald quoted the "Berliner Tageblatt":—

"If the Chancellor's speech may be interpreted as acquiescing in the Resolution passed by the Majority of the Reichstag, then all idea of Belgium becoming a German protectorate is out of the question."

And the "Volkszeitung":—

"Three or four days after a large majority of the Reichstag has declared itself in favour of a Peace without annexations, the British Premier asserts that Germany wants annexations."

MacDonald was of opinion that the Reichstag resolution means that "Germany wants no annexation, that the War will not be followed by annexation". He said that the parties in Germany which had passed the resolution by 214 to 116, were equivalent to all the Labour Party, all the Liberal Party, and at least half the Conservative Party. He urged that the British Parliament should talk to the German people over the heads of German Ministers. He quoted Scheidemann, the Socialist majority leader, who said:

"If France and Britain renounce annexations, and Germany insists on them, we shall have a revolution in the land."

Scheidemann speaking on the Reichstag Resolution, also said that if a similar resolution were passed in the British Parliament, and answered by the Prime Minister as Michaelis answered this, "Peace negotiations would begin to-morrow."

Mr. Asquith discounted all this by saying that the Reichstag had no power, and that the new German Chancellor had been appointed without any Parliamentary consultation. Mr. Snowden replied with one of his usual incisive thrusts; "Surely the recent political experience of the right hon. gentleman ought to have prevented him from committing himself to a statement like that. When was the right hon. gentleman elected to any of the responsible positions he has held during recent years?" Snowden recalled the fact that a little more than two years ago Mr. Asquith said on Wednesday that there was no idea of forming a Coalition Government, and that he did not think the House would approve such a course, but on Monday the Coalition was formed without consultation with the House.

Mr. Wardle, Leader of the Labour Party, said that the Party had never been jingo, Imperialistic, or aggressive, and then demanded that the Germans should retire across the Rhine. Surely, after all the discussion that has been raised over a similar statement by Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Wardle knows that the bank of the Rhine is not the frontier of Germany!

IS KERENSKY DOOMED?

Mr. Lees Smith, the soldier M.P., said: "Kerensky has most solemnly pledged himself to the Russian people and the Russian soldiers, that he will not call on them to fight, unless the Allies, as the preliminary to a general Peace, publicly announce that they abandon all projects for colonies, conquests, and economic war. Are you going to announce it? If the Government does not announce it, it pronounces Mr. Kerensky's doom. It drives Russia straight into the hands of those who want a separate peace."

Mr. Bonar Law dismissed the resolution, and all that had been said, contemptuously declaring that the Reichstag had waited to pass a peace resolution until "it began to look as if Germany were going to be beaten in the war." The way to get "a real Peace feeling in Germany," he said, "is to show that we mean to go on till the end is attained." He concluded with the ominous statement that the question is "one of staying power." This predicts a long War.

A REVOLUTION IN FRANCE?

Mr. Snowden declared that the feeling in the British Army is growing more revolutionary. Discontented soldiers used to write: "For Heaven's sake don't mention my name!" They now say: "You can publish this letter; you can print my name and address, I don't care who knows!" "If the Government know anything at all about the state of the French Army," added Mr. Snowden, "they know that the soldiers have practically taken control of the Army, that they are refusing to obey orders, and any penetrating intelligence in France will tell you that if the War goes on very much longer we shall have in France what we have had in Russia."

Mr. Trevelyan said, as he has often done before, that the War is at a deadlock. Mr. Denman said it was the business of the popular assemblies of all the Powers to encourage the parties in the Reichstag who passed the peace resolution. He had asked an infantry major how long the soldiers on both sides would take to fraternise if an armistice were called. The answer had been: "Oh, five minutes! There is no animosity amongst the people actually fighting."

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck (C.) said that the Government ought clearly to define its policy with regard to Austria, Asia Minor, and the economic future after the War. He could not see that this country was called on to fight for a greater Serbia and the breaking up of Austria, as there was no certainty that the populations desire it. The Prime Minister had committed himself to the partition of Asia Minor; he objected to that, and wished the Government to declare it not a part of our War aims. He was opposed to this country carrying an economic war of aggression and boycott of Germany and Austria, and wished for a declaration that the Paris Conference resolutions did not mean that.

General Croft said that military supremacy is the only argument which German fighting men understand, and showed by his speech that he was summing up his own character in that phrase. Mr. O'Grady said that he fled from Stockholm lest his one-time "close bosom friends, colleagues, and comrades" should meet him in the streets and hold out their hands to him. Do you not realise, Mr. O'Grady, that it was your conscience that was the cause of your embarrassment, for you have forgotten your faith in the Workers' International?

When the Consolidated Fund Bill was again debated on October 30th, Mr. Bryce (C.) demanded the breaking up of the Austrian Empire to satisfy the Poles, the Czechs, and the Jugo-Slavs; also to fulfil the promises made by the Allies to Italy and Roumania. He said: "It is quite impossible that our engagements with our Allies can be satisfied if the existence of the Austrian Empire is to be maintained. He is of the school that would continue the War until the map of Europe has been re-drawn.

Mr. Balfour (C. Min.) said that when this country declared war on Germany on August 3rd, there was not in the minds of those who made the declaration or those who listened to it "the smallest thought of the great problems which the course of the War has opened out before us." He added that the application of the principle of freedom for nationalities must be left to the Peace Conference, but Alsace-Lorraine must be restored to France. He evaded committing himself on the complicated mid-European controversy.

SOLDIER LEARNS THE TRUTH

In the House of Commons on July 30th Mr. Lees Smith drew attention to the fact that Second-Lieutenant Sassoon had been forced to appear before a medical board, which declared that he must be suffering from nervous shock, and sent him to a hospital for officers suffering from shell shock. Yet Lieutenant Sassoon had been three months in this country, and as Mr. Lees Smith said, "it never occurred to a soul that he was showing evidence of nervous shock until he wrote the letter." Mr. Lees Smith regards him as "a man of most unusual mental power and most extraordinary determination of character."

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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WOMEN'S PEACE CRUSADE in BELFAST

Arrangements for First Week's Meetings:

Tuesday, 7th August	..	CARLISLE CIRCUS, 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 8th	..	CO. DOWN STATION, 1.30 p.m
Wednesday, 8th	..	BOTANIC GARDENS, 7.30 p.m.
Thursday, 9th	..	CITY HALL, 1.30 p.m.
Friday, 10th	..	COMBER PLACE, Crumlin Rd., 7.30 p.m.

Speakers: — Miss LOUIE BENNETT (Dublin), Miss H. S CHENEVIX (Dublin), MARGT. T. McCOUBREY, and others

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

OUTRAGEOUS PUNISHMENT OF A BOY.

July 24th.—Sir William Byles complained that Private Ernest Richard Bowyer, No. 290,739, 1/7 Battalion Welsh Regiment, was punished for overstaying his first leave by confinement to barracks without pass for one month and given field punishment, which means being handcuffed to a tree for two hours each day. Mr. Harvey pointed out that Mr. Macpherson has stated on behalf of the War Office that Field Punishment No. 1 is never given in this country. Mr. Macpherson had no answer to give; he was making inquiries.

Mothers and fathers, how can you send your young sons into the Army?

PENSIONS FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

Mr. Barnes (Lab. Min.), in answer to Mr. G. Terrell (U.), said that it "is now" the policy of the Pensions Department to treat tuberculosis as in the majority of cases "attributable to, or aggravated by, War service," and that "many of such cases which were ruled out for pension earlier in the War will be accepted on review." He thought that cases of the dependants of men who have died from this disease would be eligible for re-examination for pension or some other form of relief. During the three years in which the authorities have been coming to this conclusion numbers of men have died of neglect who by proper treatment might have lived for many years, whilst the consumptives and their families have been plunged into miserable destitution. These tubercular subjects are the "weeds" and "broken men" of whom Mr. Barnes said that they would never get pensions so long as he remained Pensions Minister. Join the National League of Rights and keep on pressing.

* * * *

Mr. Bonar Law said that Sir E. Carson's salary will be £5,000 a year.

* * * *

In reply to Colonel C. Lowther (U.), Mr. Macpherson said that the letters from the United States to members of Parliament are censored.

IRISH CONVENTION.

Mr. Bonar Law said that the total number of acceptances to the Irish Convention to date is 95. "In view of the importance and variety of Labour interests the number of Labour representatives has been increased from five to seven." Seven out of 95! And whom do the nine titled gentlemen nominated by the Government represent?

* * * *

July 25th.—In reply to Mr. King, Lord Robert Cecil (L. Min.) said that negotiations are in progress with the French and Italian Governments for the mutual conscription for military service of British and Allied subjects. Freedom!

RE-CLASSIFICATION—RECORD SPEED.

Mr. Hogge (L.) asked if Colonel Butt, of the Northern Command, holds the record in passing men from one category to another, and whether he re-classified sixty-three men in twenty-five minutes one day last week. Do not trouble, gentlemen, these men are but pawns in the War-games!

PERSIA.

In reply to Mr. King's question, "Whether it is the joint Russian-British policy as regards Persia to seek a settlement of Persian affairs by recourse to the principle that nationalities have the right to decide their own destiny," Lord R. Cecil said: "It has always been the policy of His Majesty's Government to respect and further the independence and integrity of Persia." This is absolutely untrue, for in spite of pledges to protect the Persians the British Foreign Office, under Sir Edward Grey, arranged for the partition of Persia into British and Russian spheres of influence, and betrayed the Persians to massacre and violence at the hands of the Czardom.

IRISH CONVENTION.

Mr. Byrne (N.) asked if it would not be better to prevent any report being given to the people of the Irish Convention rather than a faked report.

AN AGENT-PROVOCATEUR.

Mr. King asked whether an agent-provocateur in the employ of the Czarist Government in Russia was denounced by the Provisional Government in Petrograd to the British Government; and whether he was placed under arrest for half an hour and then released. The Home Secretary evaded the question, which was obviously embarrassing.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

Mr. Anderson (Lab.) called the attention of the Under-Secretary of State for War to the case of a major commanding a regiment, who seized a pot of hot coffee from a private soldier standing on the platform at York Station on 16th July, and poured the contents over the head and neck of the soldier.

* * * *

The gross income liable to taxation in this country has risen from £1,167,184,229 in 1913-14 to £1,670,000,000 in 1916-17. That last shilling looks fairly safe!

ROPEY BREAD.

Mr. Clynes admitted that the bread disease called rope is not due to the mere mixing of ingredients. He refused to direct that millers should state on their invoices the names and proportions of the ingredients contained in the flour they sell for bread-making, because, he said, that the ingredients are constantly varying. He refused to allow the bakers to buy the various ingredients and mix them, on the ground that it would be difficult to supervise the bakers. If profiteering were eliminated from our bread, as was done by the Relief Commission in Belgium, these difficulties would disappear.

Dr. Macnamara (L. Min.) stated that the prices charged for Government provisions to the men in the Navy are the same now as before the War. Let the Government supply the whole country at the same prices.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS.

Mr. Gilbert (L.) complained of the delays in the Pensions Department, and Mr. Barnes (Lab. Min.) replied that he was viewing "with some concern the unceasing, irregular, and vast growth of the work of his Department. Weekly payments have now been authorised to almost 750,000 men, women, and children, and there are tens of thousands of 'renewals' each month." The staff consists of 3,509, nearly all women, and they were doing all they could to obviate delay. Why not stop the War, so that there will be no more new cases? But we must protest that if the system were properly organised, each clerk should be able to attend to many more than 214 1-3 pensions cases each, which Mr. Barnes' figures show to be the case. We manage matters more economically than that in the National League of Rights. There is obviously a good deal of incompetence in the Department. The rules, designed to cheat those entitled to pension of every possible penny, and the inquisition held on each case result in huge administration charges. One simple expedient which would greatly reduce the number of official salaries would be to fix a flat rate for parents and other dependants instead of the present plan of assessing pensions and allowances on the pre-War dependence estimate, minus the estimate of the sum spent on the soldiers' or sailors' keep.

Get your branch to pass a resolution about this, and send to the National League of Rights, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

* * * *

Mr. Roberts (Lab. Min.) said that about 120 War risks insurance claims were settled per day. The air raid damage must be much greater than reported in the Press.

* * * *

July 26th.—Mr. Edmund Harvey (L.) drew attention to the death-rate of 10 per cent. per annum among the contracted labourers on the cocoa estates in San Thomé. Yet we are expected to believe that our capitalists desire the German colonies in order to play the part of Good Samaritan to the natives!

FOOD QUESTIONS.

Mr. Eugene Wason (L.) drew attention to the fact that huge quantities of fish were destroyed at Billingsgate last week!

* * * *

Major Newman (U.) drew attention to the American meat ring, which will not do business through outside jobbers unless they offer prices to which the ring has agreed. Supplies are thus held off the market.

GOVERNMENT SWEATING.

Sir G. Cave (L. Min.) said that at the Dundrum Forestry Centre the Irish Department of Agriculture pays labourers 18s. a week. At the Avondale Centre the labourers are paid 15s. a week and received a bonus of £5 at the end of last year. Mr. Byrne (N.) asked whether these people "could feel content." Sir G. Cave could not say.

WOMEN'S SERVICE IN FRANCE.

In reply to Mr. Roch (L.), Mr. Macpherson (L. Min.) gave a copy of the terms of service and the undertaking signed by women who are accepted for certain services with the Army in France, of which the following are some of the clauses:—

12. Do you undertake to perform any work which may be required of you by your superior officer?

13. Do you understand that if at any time in breach of this contract of service you:—

(a) Without lawful excuse absent yourself from any work which it is your duty to perform, or from any place where it is your duty to be; or

(b) Refuse or wilfully neglect to perform any of your duties; or

(c) Wilfully impede or delay the due performance of any work on or in connection with which you may be employed;

you will render yourself liable on conviction by a court of summary jurisdiction to be sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding £100, or to both such imprisonment and fine?

14. Do you agree that in the event of your being guilty of any act or neglect in breach of this contract or of any of the rules, regulations, or instructions laid down from time to time for this Corps, you will be liable to a fine:—

On the first occasion of ..... 2s. 6d.
On the second occasion of ..... 5s. 0d.
And on the third or any subsequent occasion of not exceeding ..... 7s. 6d.

15. Do you agree that the decision of the Officer Commanding the military formation to which you may from time to time be attached that you have rendered yourself liable to any such fine shall be final and conclusive, and shall justify the deduction thereof either in one sum or by any instalments from any wages or other sums due or which may become due to you under this contract: Subject only (in the event of your dissatisfaction with any decision of the aforesaid officer) to any appeal in writing to the Army Council which you may within seven days of the decision of the aforesaid officer hand to such officer for transmission; and that in the event of any such appeal the decision of the Army Council that you have rendered yourself liable to any such fine shall be final and conclusive, and shall justify the deduction thereof as aforesaid?

16. Do you agree to serve on the terms and conditions contained in this form and in Army Instruction..... provided His Majesty shall so long require your services, i.e., for a period of 12 months from.....or for the duration of the War, whichever is the greater period: Provided that your services may be terminated forthwith on ground of misconduct, or breach of conditions, on receipt of notice given by Army Council, or that, in the event of your services being no longer required, they may be terminated by one week's notice in writing being given to you?

I, ... do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I hereby agree to fulfil the engagements made. I have received, read and understand the Army Council Instruction, ..., which sets forth conditions of service and rate of pay applicable to me.

We advise women to pause and consider the consequences before taking service under such conditions.

* * * *

Sir G. Cave admitted that T. H. Williams, Cwmavon, is being forcibly fed, and has goitre in the neck.

THE CRIME OF BEING AN EDITOR.

Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke desired the revision of the exemption as a conscientious objector of Councillor Hughes, of West Ham, on the ground that he edits the "Mansfield House Magazine." Sir C. Kinloch-Cooke is evidently one of those patriots who fear the truth!

* * * *

Mr. Harvey (L.) said that at the close of the Crimean War free educational classes were opened at Woolwich for the boys employed at the Arsenal, and urged that such classes should be instituted at the close of this War for boys and girls whose education had been interrupted.

"WICKED WASTE MAKES WOEFUL WANT!"

Mr. Cecil Beck (L.) stated that the expenditure of the National Service Department up to the 11th inst. was £163,118 5s. 3d., of which £87,491 12s. 3d. was spent on advertising the original scheme. And all for nothing!

TRICK TO SECURE LABOUR RECRUITS.

July 27th.—Mr. Byrne (N.) said that Irishmen were induced to join the Inland Water and Docks Royal Engineers by posters promising 3s. 3d. a day after sixty days' service, but that the promise is broken and the men only get 1s. 8d. to 2s. 2d. a day. Mr. Macpherson replied: "The special rate was withdrawn in April, 1916, for all subsequent enlistments." We call this a dishonest breach of contract.

NEW MINISTRIES BILL.

July 27th.—The Home Secretary introduced the New Ministries Bill, "to establish a Minister of Reconstruction, who shall, in the words of the Bill, promote 'the work of organisation and development after the termination of the present War.'" Some of the questions to be dealt with by this new Ministry are: "Commercial and industrial policy, the development of national and Imperial resources, the maintenance of new industries, the supply of raw material, the conservation of coal, and an inventory of the mineral resources of the Empire; demobilisation, housing, education, the prolongation of those special powers which have been taken for War purposes, and the expulsion and inclusion of aliens, and matters of that kind; relations between employers and employed, the employment of women, and food supply." Sir G. Cave referred to the attention being bestowed upon reconstruction in Germany, which evidently has spurred on the Government to take up the matter here, as we always follow her lead! He stated that the Minister's functions would not be executive, but mainly advisory. He will appoint committees and receive their reports, institute experiments, and frame schemes. The Bill provides that Mr. Henderson and Sir E. Carson, Ministers without portfolios, may sit in the House without seeking re-election and shall receive a salary.

THE SILVERTOWN SCANDAL.

July 30th.—Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck again protested that £130,000 had been spent in rebuilding the houses destroyed by the Silvertown explosion in a manner which he characterised as a disgrace to civilisation. The wooden floors being laid on pools of evil-smelling mud without concrete floors, ventilators, damp courses, etc. Sir A. Mond, First Commissioner of Works, said that his Department is doing the work as quickly as possible. Brunner, Mond's was the firm where the explosion took place. It is to be regretted that Sir A. Mond, who probably is interested in getting the workers back into their hovels at the earliest possible moment, and may even be connected with some of the house property, should be the person in authority. Mr. W. Thorne (Lab.) made mild excuses for the jerrybuilding.

MACDONALD & HENDERSON GO TO PARIS

The Jingoes raised a hue and cry because Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Arthur Henderson have gone to Paris together as part of a delegation of three from the British Labour Party to the workers of France. It is peculiarly galling to them that a member of the War Cabinet should have accompanied Mr. Macdonald. Mr. Lees Smith asked whether it was not a fact that the four delegates from the Russian Workers' and Soldiers' Council had asked that Mr. Macdonald should accompany them. Mr. Bonar Law did not know.

FEDERATION NOTES

THE BIG PUSH.

On Saturday, July 28th, we did our best to arouse the Waterloo Road neighbourhood, and I think we succeeded. We started with a meeting at 3 p.m. outside the "Old Vic," and when we saw how sympathetic and willing to listen the people were, we decided to hold our second meeting in the same place. Members of the Central Branch, Bow, Leyton, and elsewhere went chalking, bill distributing and selling DREADNOUGHTS until our speakers for the evening arrived. People were waiting to hear Miss Sylvia Pankhurst on "The Federation's attitude towards the present crisis." She had many soldiers in her audience, and the police were very friendly. Soon there were little groups of people scattered about discussing Peace, the history of Morocco, reprisals, the price of food, and suffrage. Mrs. Walker's speech caused great interest, and a large number of DREADNOUGHTS were sold. Soldiers called out as we went away "Good luck! Keep the flag flying!" Everyone seemed sorry that our meeting was ended.

The Big Push is doing good work among those who have never before had our point of view placed before them, but in addition to bringing the Federation and its work in touch with fresh people, it is giving members of our different branches a splendid opportunity of knowing each other and of gaining confidence in themselves and in the movement. It is especially good for intending speakers, because they will have a chance of hearing many arguments and learning a great deal of current history. As one man said of Miss Pankhurst's speech on Saturday: "If they take in and remember all they're hearing, they'll have a jolly good education."

Next Saturday we shall be at Hoxton. The Women's Peace Crusade, who co-operated with us in W. Ham, are again helping us. All helpers are asked to be at St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, at 2.45. It is near Shoreditch Church, and not far from Liverpool Street. Local members will arrange tea in the hall.

We have been invited to arrange special days in such distant places as Erith and High Wycombe, so there will be room for everyone to help.

THE REFERENDUM.

We need many more canvassers in order to conclude our Referendum in Bow on Adult Suffrage, etc. Please help during your holidays.

BOW BRANCH.

Bow members and friends are invited to the children's rehearsals on Friday evenings (6.30-8 p.m.). A club for older people will be held later in the evening. As it is impossible that every member should be canvassed, all those who live in Bow are asked to bring or send their subscriptions on this evening and to buy their DREADNOUGHTS at the same time.

THE SOCIAL.

Will all those who had tickets for the social kindly settle up as soon as possible, as we wish to close our account.

P. LYNCH.

LONG EATON AND ILKESTON I.L.P.

On Sunday, July 15th, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst addressed two great and enthusiastic meetings under the auspices of the above. At the Long Eaton meeting, with a crowd of 2,000 people, Miss Pankhurst took a vote of the audience on the immediate settlement of the War by peace on the basis of no annexation, no indemnities and the right of the peoples to decide their own destiny. This was carried with applause by this great crowd with only one dissentient. At the close of the meeting a Women's Committee of twenty-five was appointed who will continue a sustained and determined campaign in favour of peace.—MONA.

THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS.

The W.S.F. greatly needs help just now as several of its regular workers are taking a long needed rest, and there is much work to be done for the Trafalgar Square meeting, August 19th, the Peace meeting on September 16th, the Referendum for the Peace and People's Charter campaign and all our various activities. Help is wanted in the office and outdoors, and we hope that some of our members and friends will be able to devote their holidays to this urgent work.

THE

WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People on the basis of a Socialist Commonwealth.

Entrance Fee—1d.

Minimum Subscription—1d. a month.

Central Office: 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3

Hon Secretary: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mrs. Minnie Lansbury.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Edgar Lansbury.

Hon. Financial Secretary: Miss Norah Smyth.

Address Correspondence on:—

Meetings, to Mrs. Bouvier.
W.S.F. Branches, Miss P. Lynch.
"Dreadnought," Miss O'Callaghan.
Other Literature, Miss Bush.

The W.S.F. appeals for members and workers and invites friends to visit its offices and social institutions.

CENTRAL OFFICE: 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3

THE MOTHERS' ARMS: 438 Old Ford Road, E.3 Mother and Doctor's Consultations and Baby Weighing, Mondays 2.30 p.m. Infant Clinic and Day Nursery, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MONTESSORI SCHOOL: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (by appointment with Miss Muriel Matters) at the Mothers' Arms.

THE WOMEN'S HALL: 20 Railway Street (opposite South Bromley Station on the North London Railway) Mother and Infant Clinic, Doctor's Consultations and Baby Weighing, Mondays and Thursdays at 2.30 p.m. Cost Price Restaurant, &c.

53 ST. LEONARDS STREET, BROMLEY: Mother and Infant Clinic, Literature depot, &c. Doctors' Consultations and Baby Weighing, Friday 10.30 a.m.

COST PRICE RESTAURANT: 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3, and 20 Railway Street, Poplar.

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP: 85 Hoxton Street, off Old Street, off Shoreditch. Literature on Communism, Feminism, Internationalism, Socialism.

CO-OPERATIVE TOY INDUSTRY: By appointment with Miss Norah Smyth.

THE WORKERS' CHOIR: Applications for Membership to Mrs. Hercbergova, 45 Norman Road, E.

SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL: 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Sunday Afternoons, 3 p.m.

OUR FUNDS

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Edgar Lansbury, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—W. J. Woods, Esq., £2; Misses Rickards, £1 2s. 6d.; Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; A Friend, 10s. COLLECTIONS: Erith I.L.P., per Miss Pankhurst, 17s. 6d.; Bow "At Home," 3s. 7½d.; Mrs. Cressall, 2s.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—A. Gliksten, Esq., £6 6s.; Mrs. Sanger, £3; Miss L. Bent, 2s.; Mrs. Payne, 1s.; Mrs. Brimley, 1s.; F. Thomas, 1s.; Miss Ethel M. Davis, 6d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—C. A. Pease, Esq., £5; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Miss Fairholme, 10s.; Mrs. Hyde, 10s.; Anon, 5s.; Mr. and Mrs. Parker, 3s. 6d.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; F. Thomas, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Toolroom, £1 6s. 0½d.; Miss O'Brien, 16s. 5½d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 12s. 9½d.; Miss Greenfield, 7s. 6d.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s. 7½d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Girls from the County Secondary School, Lower Clapton, per Miss Baudulska; Mrs. Gibson; Anon; Mrs. J. K. Watt.

HOXTON SOCIAL.

A successful Social was held on July 26th. The excellent programme arranged by Miss Perry, Miss Sims and friends was much enjoyed. It comprised songs by Misses F. Sims, W. Gollop, W. Nicholls and M. Perry. Mrs. Drake made a speech on various questions of the day which was received with enthusiasm. Our hearty thanks are due to all who helped, especially to Miss W. Perry for playing all the dance music and the accompaniments, and also to Mrs. Sims, Miss Rayment and Mrs. Blake for presiding over the refreshments, and Miss Sims for typing the programmes.

HOXTON JUMBLE SALE.

Contributions are still urgently needed for our Jumble Sale on August 13th. We are greatly in needs of funds, and we are anxious to make this Jumble Sale a big success. Gifts of left-off clothing or lumber will be gratefully received by Hon. Sec., 85 Hoxton Street, N.1. Parcels already gratefully acknowledge from Miss Smyth and Miss Setchfield.

CANNING TOWN.

Copies of the WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT may be obtained from Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Road.

WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES

OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3rd.
"Salmon and Ball," 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mrs. Drake

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th.
Hoxton, meetings 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (see "Great Push").

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5th.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Victoria Park, 4 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Mrs. Drake.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8th.
"Salmon and Ball," 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Ex-Inspector Syme.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10th.
Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11th.
St. Pancras meetings 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (see "Great Push").

INDOOR

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th.
Gravel Pit Hall, Valette Street, Mare Street, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9th.
85 Hoxton Street, 3.15 p.m., Rev. Cheetham, Miss Beamish.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley, 2.30 p.m., Rev. H. Cheetham.

SPECIAL NOTICES

MONDAY, AUGUST 13th.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., General Meeting (London District). Business: Trafalgar Square Demonstration.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19th.
Trafalgar Square Demonstration to demand Adult Suffrage and the Abolition of the House of Lords.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WALTHAMSTOW LEAGUE OF RIGHTS.

Tuesday, August 7th, 2.30 p.m., William Morris Hall, Somers Road, Rev. Cheetham.

HOLLOWAY.

It is hoped to start a Branch of the W.S.F. shortly in the Holloway district. Will all those who wish to join please write to Mrs. A. Cave, 31 Blackstock Road, Finsbury Park, N., from whom copies of the WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT may be obtained.

WOMEN'S PEACE CRUSADE.

In the advertising columns of this issue particulars of the first week's meetings are given. Help of all kinds is urgently required—speakers, leaflet distributors, literature sellers. Offers of assistance of any kind to be sent to Margt. T. McCoubrey, 37 Candahar Street, Belfast

JOIN OUR GREAT PUSH FOR THE

PEOPLE'S CHARTER!

ORGANISED BY THE WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION, 400 OLD FORD ROAD, E.3

PEACE! SOCIALISM! VOTES FOR ALL!

Stop the hideous slaughter by ending the War! Down with Profiteering! Secure Food and Necessaries for all! Not Votes for some but Adult Suffrage! Down with the House of Lords!

Summer Campaign for Education!

Meetings! Literature Distribution! Individual Talks with Everyone!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th, HOXTON & SHOREDITCH DISTRICT—(Joint with the Women's Peace Crusaders)—
Meet: 85 HOXTON STREET, N., 2.45 p.m.; Meetings: HOXTON STREET, 3 p.m.; WHITMORE HEAD, 7 p.m.
Secretary for the day: Miss BEAMISH, 85 Hoxton Street.
Speakers: 1st Meeting—Mrs. NELLIE BEST, Mrs. BOUVIER, Miss LYNCH and Mrs. BESSIE WARD; 2nd Meeting—Mrs. NELLIE BEST, Mrs. BOUVIER, Mrs. BUTLER, Miss LYNCH and Ex-Inspector SYME.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11th, ST. PANCRAS DISTRICT—Meet: B.S.P. HALL, 44 MALDON ROAD, Kentish Town, 2.45 p.m.; Meetings at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Secretary for the day: Rev. C. A. WILLS, St Thomas Vicarage, Camden Town, N.W.1
Speakers: Mrs. CRESSALL, Miss LYNCH, Ex-Inspector SYME, Rev. C. A. WILLS, and others.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th, WEST CENTRAL AND HYDE PARK DISTRICT—Meet: 29B LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C., 2.45 p.m.; Meetings: 3 p.m.; HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Secretary for the day: Miss CASEY, 29B Lincoln's Inn Fields.
Speakers: Miss LYNCH, Mrs. BESSIE WARD, Ex-Inspector SYME, and others.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th, KENSAL RISE DISTRICT—Meet: 2.45 p.m.; Meetings at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Secretary for the day: Mrs. EDWARDS, 30 Clifford Gardens, Kensal Rise, N.W.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th.

Secretary: Mrs. FINEBERG

WORKERS WANTED!

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

Help to secure better treatment for the victims of International folly.

MORE WORKERS WANTED in writing & organising.

Help by Your Work!
Give What You Can!

ADULT SUFFRAGE and DOWN WITH THE HOUSE OF LORDS

GREAT TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEMONSTRATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19th, 4 p.m.

Organised by W.S.F. and Workers National Adult Suffrage Movement.

Speakers: Mr. C. G. AMMON (I.L.P.), Mr. G. BELT ("Herald"), Mrs. BOUVIER (W.S.F.), Mrs. BOYCE (W.S.F.), Mrs. BUTLER, Mr. E. W. CANT (B.S.P.), Coun. W. CARTER, Mr. W. CARTER (N.U.R), Ald. D. J. DAVIS, J.P., (West Ham Trades Council), Mrs. DRAKE (W.S.F.), Mr. J. FINEBERG (B.S.P.), Coun. BEN GARDNER, Mrs. GATTY, Mr. R. M. GENTRY (Co-operative Bakers' Union), Mr. C. W. GIBSON (Workers' Union), Mr. W. HOLMES (Labour Party), Miss MANICOM (Workers' Union), Mr. V. L. McENTIE (B.S.P.), Mrs. MONTEFIORI, Miss E. SYLVIA PANKHURST, Rev. W. PIGGOTT (U.D.C.), Rev. C. A. WILLS, and others.

PROCESSIONS FROM NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST LONDON

NORTH LONDON: St. Pancras Arches, 2.30 p.m. Organiser: Mr. W. CHILTON, 14 Ascham Street, Kentish Town. EAST LONDON: Beckton Road, Canning Town, 1.15 p.m.; Dock Gates, Poplar, 2 p.m.; Gardner's Corner, 3 p.m. Organiser: Miss NORAH SMYTH, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. SOUTH LONDON: The Dun Cow, Old Kent Road, 2.30 p.m. Organiser: Mr. ROWLING, 182 Rolls Road, Bermondsey. WEST LONDON: Prince of Wales, Harrow Road, 2 p.m.; Paddington Green, 2.50 p.m.; Tottenham Court Road and Euston Road, 3.30 p.m. Organiser: Mr. E. J. HOLDER, 104 Bathurst Gardens, Willesden.

Chairman: Mr. W. CARTER, 38 Leverton Street, Kentish Town.
Hon. Secretary: Miss E. SYLVIA PANKHURST, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
Hon. Treasurer: Dr. A. SALTER, J.P., 5 Storks Road, Bermondsey, S.E.
Hon. Financial Secretary: Mr. G. H. PRATT, 1 Mervyn Road, W. Ealing.

REFERENDUM IN BOW

Adult Suffrage!
Proportional Representation!
The Referendum!

Secretary: Miss LYNCH, 400 Old Ford Road.

MORE CANVASSERS WANTED!

Help this important Educational Effort.

USEFUL AND INTERESTING WORK FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Join the Workers' Suffrage Federation!

Printed by the Blackfriars Press Ld., 8 & 9 Johnson's Court, Fleet St., E.C.4 and Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, at their Offices 400 Old Ford Rd. Bow, E. Printed by T.U. labour in all departments (48 hour week), on Trade Union Made Paper.